

START



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Incoming 9402909

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7601 W. Clearwater, Suite 102 • Kennewick, Washington 99336 • (509) 546-2990

April 7, 1994

Mr. Steve Wisness, Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits and Policy
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

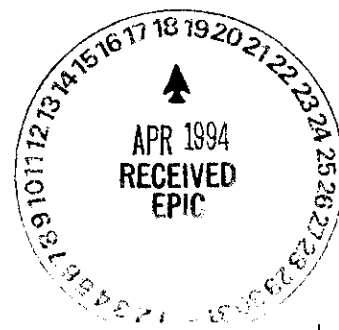
Dear Mr. Wisness:

Re: 242-A Evaporator Restart

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is increasingly concerned about the inability of the 242-A Evaporator to begin operation. At the last Unit Manager's meeting for the 242-A Evaporator, a restart date of March 23, 1994, was provided as the latest in a long list of expected startup dates. Since that time, conversations between the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) representatives have indicated that the March 23 date was not realized, and a new date of April 15, 1994, was offered. Ecology finds the continued delay of the 242-A Evaporator restart to be both unwarranted and inappropriate.

The Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-17-29A states that restart of the 242-A Evaporator was to occur "in Fiscal Year 1992." The necessity of providing adequate tank space required startup of the evaporator at this early date, and was used as justification for the construction and use of the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF). In addition, TPA Milestones M-26-03 and M-26-04, which address the termination of use and cleanout of LERF, are nearing their completion dates (December 1994 and June 1995, respectively). It will be impossible to justify any change in these dates if the LERF basins have not been utilized as originally intended.

The failure of the 242-A Evaporator to restart is also having a profound effect upon activities being planned for other treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities throughout the Hanford reservation. The necessity of both obtaining additional space within the current storage tank capacity, and decreasing dependence upon single-shelled tanks requires immediate and continued use of the 242-A Evaporator.



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Correspondence No.

Incoming 9402909

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